NEW GRAPPLER BAKI

バキ

IN SEARCH OF OUR STRONGEST HERO

NO.20

板垣恵介

KEISUKE ITAGAKI PRESENTS
SHONEN CHAMPION COMICS

SHONEN
CHAMPION
COMICS

★★★★

バキ BAKI 20

板垣恵介

秋田書店

9784253200400

ISBN4-253-20040-0

C9979 ¥390E (0)

雑誌 40089-07

1929979003906

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百年に一度の
中国最大最強の武術大会・
大擂台賽が始まった!!
そこに刃牙、
そして勇次郎までが
参戦し…ッッ!!

協力／範谷奈緒

少年チャンピオン・コミックス
SHONEN CHAMPION COMICS

Keisuke Itagaki

Q.漫画の心得とは？
芸能プロダクションの経営者の気持ちで。
優秀な役者を一人つくることができれば、
物語というのは勝手に進むもの。

Q.先生が一番興味のあるものは？
人間。
どんなジャンルを描こうが、
結局は人間を描くことになる。

（雑誌・TALK TALK別冊より）

板垣恵介[好評作品]
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メイキャッパー全3巻
グラップラー刃牙全42巻
グラップラー刃牙 外伝
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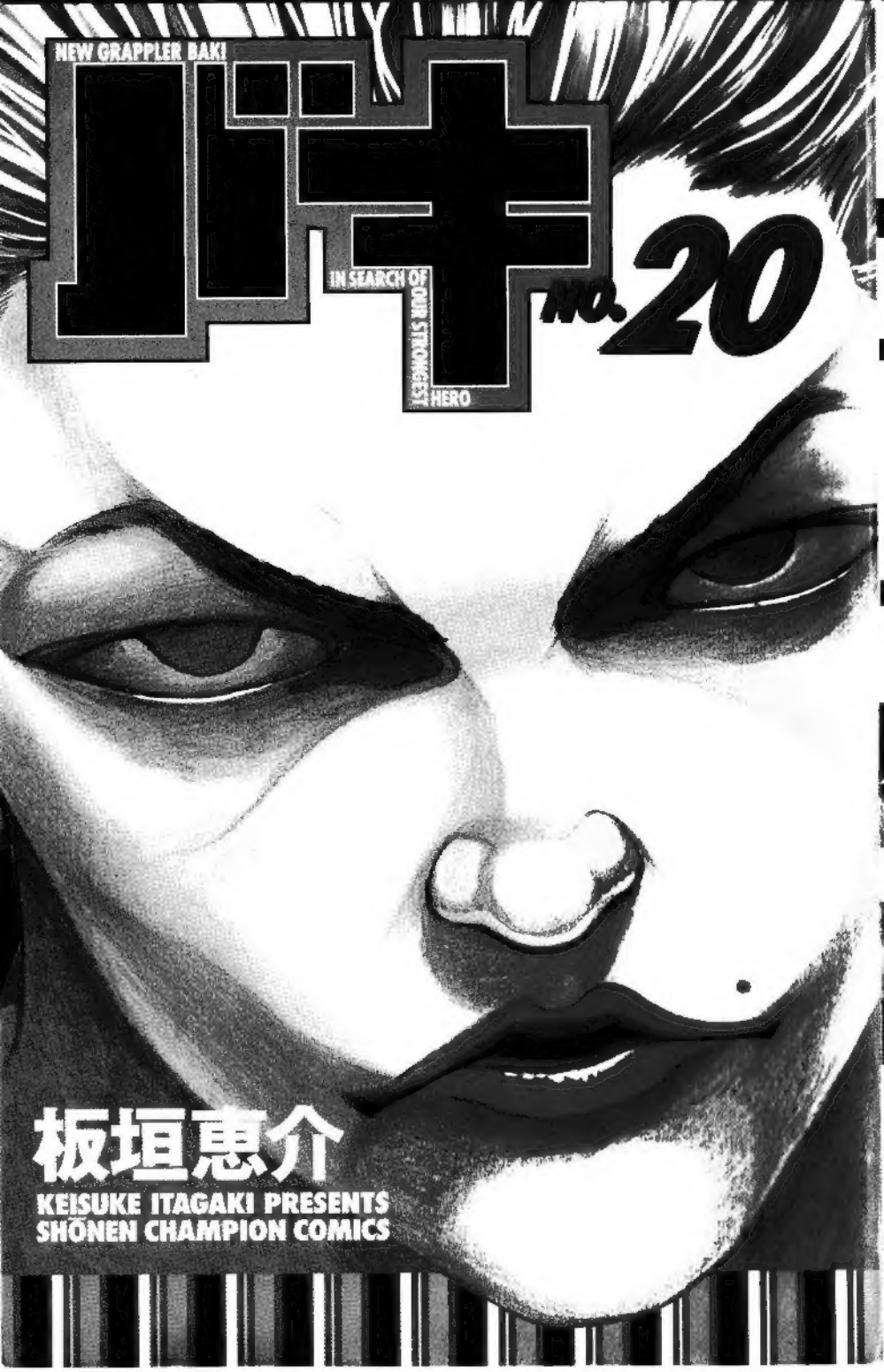

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刃牙

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SHONEN CHAMPION COMICS

No.20

【週刊少年チャンピオン掲載】

Keisuke Itagaki

いたがきけいすけ

板垣恵介

strongest hero

In search of our

【前巻までのあらすじ】最強死刑囚の１人、柳龍光との闘いを終えたバキだったが、その柳の毒手がバキの身体を蝕み始めた!!　鎬の診断は絶対安静、しかも命さえ危ういとのこと。しかし、そんな身体でバキは、梢江とともに飛騨の山奥の安藤の元を訪れ療養するのだが……!?

Cast & Story

BAKI

バキ No.20

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●この物語はフィクションであり、実在のいかなる団体・個人とも一切関係ありません。

CHAPTER
第170話
WANDERING IN
THE MIST

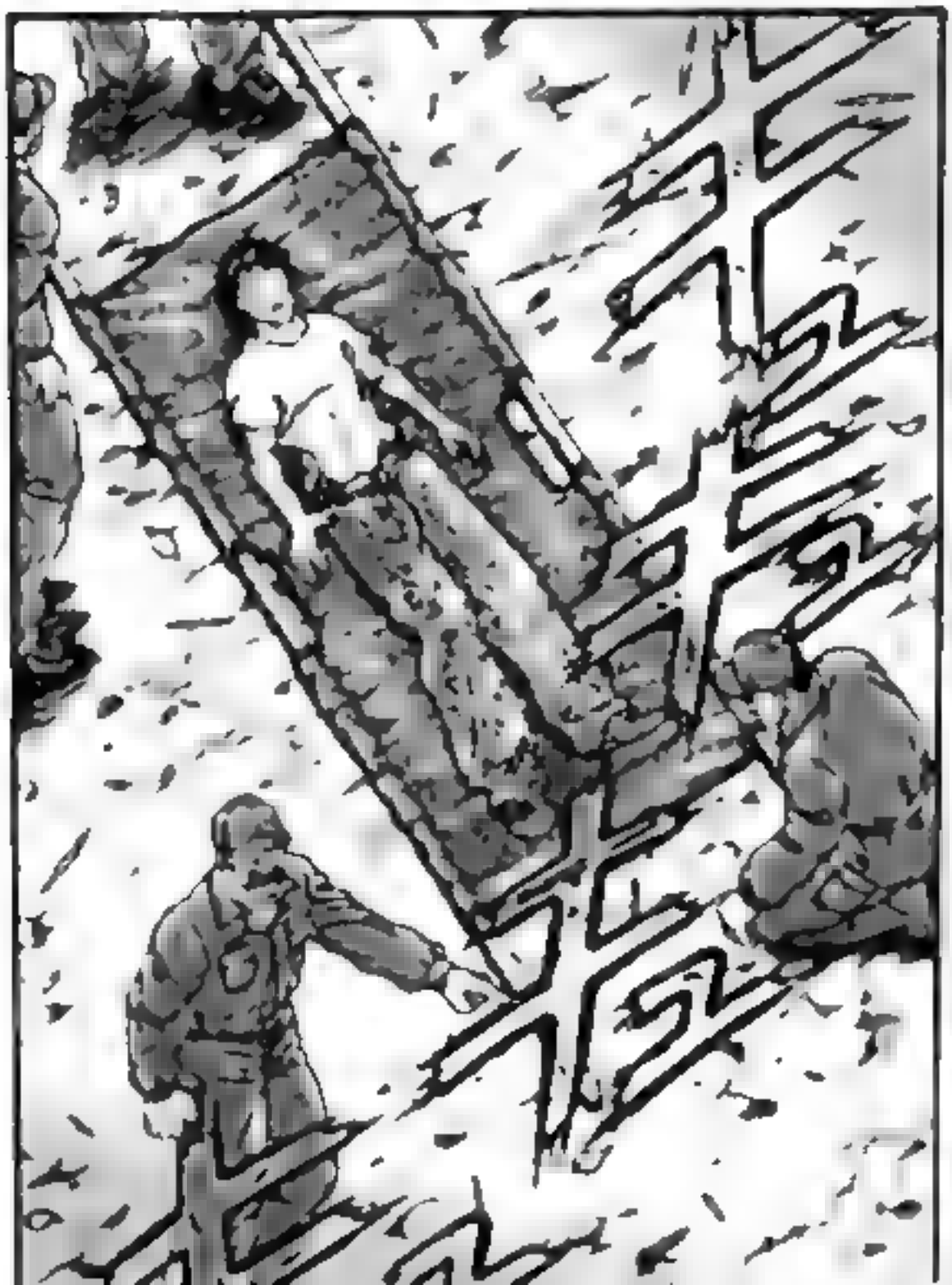
CHINA EMERGENCY
SERVICES

I, WONG, AND 3 OTHERS...

EXCELLENT, JUST AS I EXPECTED, THANK YOU VERY MUCH...

DON'T WORRY, KOZUE.

RETSU KAIOU HAS QUITE A REPUTA-TION IN CHINA.



AH?

NO, NO.

THE PROCE-DURES ARE COMPLETE

I APPRE-CIATE ALL THE WORK YOU'VE DONE,

I WILL SAVE HIM AT ANY COST.

I REALLY APPRECIATE THAT YOU OFFERED HELP.

I AM THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE GRATE-FUL.

JUST TAKE US STRAIGHT TO CHINA.

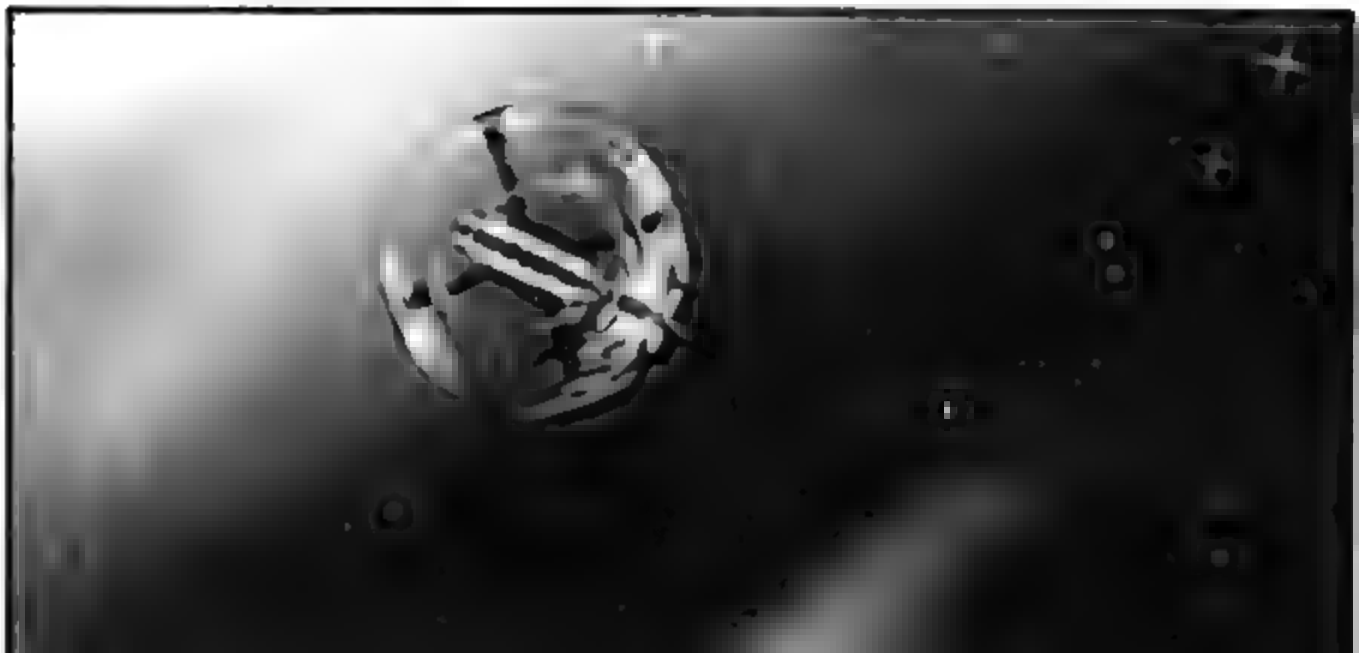
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE...

WHERE ARE WE HEADING FOR?

どこへ行くの!?

WHAT IS GOING ON!?

いったい!!



EVEN YOUR FATHER COULDN'T ACCOMPLISH THE DREAM...

ARE YOU TELLING ME THAT YOU'VE ACCOMPLISHED IT, KID?

I DID IT.

THAT'S RIGHT.

YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME, DO YOU?

WELL, THAT'S NOT SOMETHING I CAN EXPLAIN. I HAVE TO SHOW IT.

THE MARTIAL ARTS IN MUHAMMAD ALI'S WAY, MY FATHER WAS SUPPOSED TO ACCOMPLISH IT...

MAKE SURE WITH YOUR OWN EYES.

HOW IT GETS ACCOM-PLISHED?

OFCOURSE, YOU ARE WELCOME TO TRY IT...

I'LL TELL YOU THIS, FIRST...

MY FISTS WON'T BE EASY ON YOU.

●で相手の力を奪えないようにする意味ごと

MY FISTS ARE ALWAYS FOR A REAL FIGHT.

いつでも本気の喧嘩させて

IT'LL BE MORE FUN THAT WAY, ANYWAY...

LET'S HAVE A REAL FIGHT, THEN...

MHK..
KH..
KH..
KH..

YOU ARE AN INTERESTING ONE...

ゴゴゴゴ

ズズズ

ズ!!

キュキュキュキュキュキュ

EH? SO MANY...

CHAPTER

第171話

THE DAWN 1

WHERE

た…

い…

……

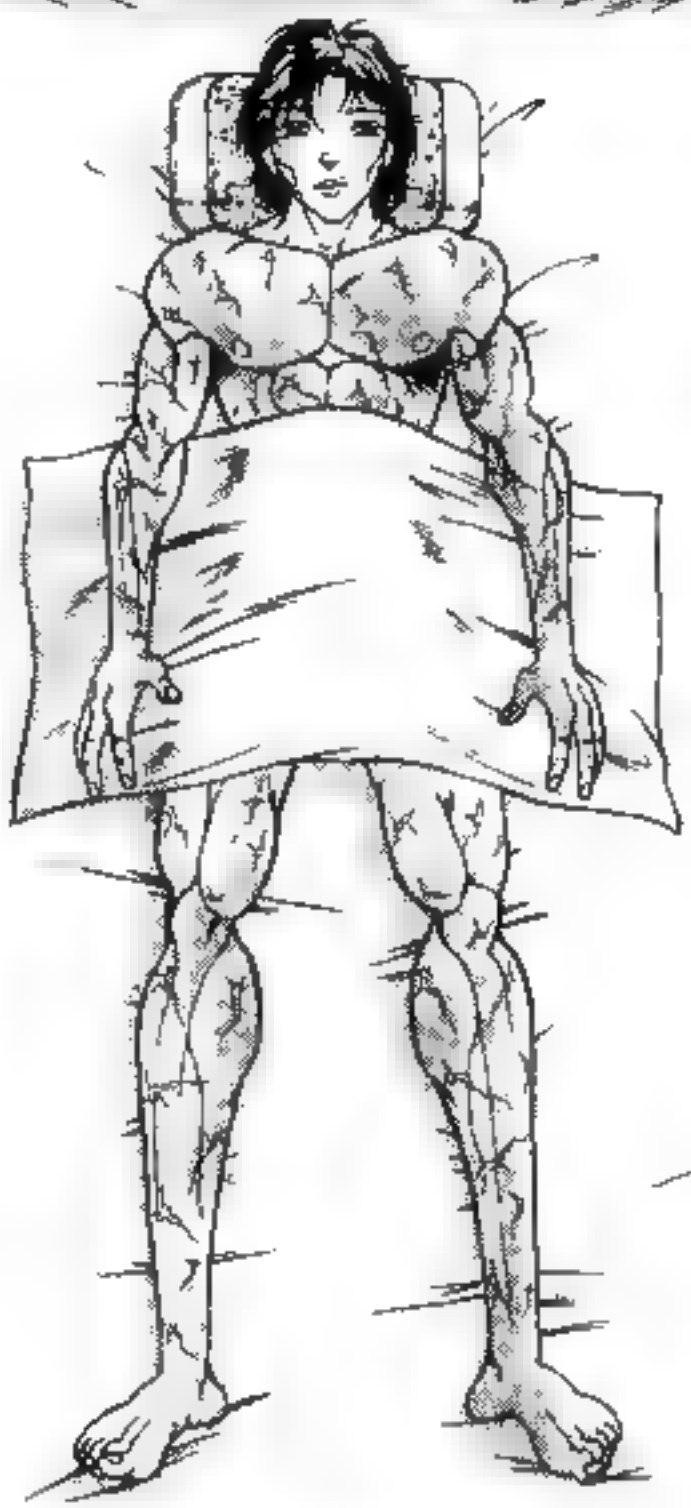
WHERE AM I NOW?

ここは…なんだ

AT A CHINESE RESTAURANT!?

中華料理屋!?

ちゅうかりょうりや



ガチャ

I'VE BROUGHT SOMETHING GOOD TO EAT.

ARE YOU AWAKE?

WHERE AM I?

SORRY, BUT...

THESE ARE COOKED WITH CHINESE MEDICINE

EH!

WHAT DID YOU SAY?

THE BOY IS GOING UP TO RAITAI....?

WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, SIR. I AM SERIOUS.

THE BOY IS GOING UP TO RAITAI

AND HE IS STRONG ENOUGH TO DO SO, SIR.

THE YOUNG BOY, HE IS EVEN POISONED NOW.

BUT, STILL HE IS STRONG ENOUGH TO DO SO, SIR.

YES, HE IS YOUNG AND POISONED,

'LEXIAOU: RETSU NAME WRITTEN IN PROPER CHINESE

HOW ARE YOU GOING TO PROVE THAT TO ME?

YOU, LEXIAOU!!

LET'S SEE.
AH WELL...

LET HIM FIGHT WITH SOMEONE HERE TO BEGIN WITH?
HOW ABOUT TESTING HIM ...

LEXIAOU...

THAT WAS

....

I'VE HEARD THAT YOU FAILED TO KNOCK DOWN A 17 YEAR-OLD BOY IN JAPAN.

THAT WAS HIM, HANMA BAKI.

YES, SIR.

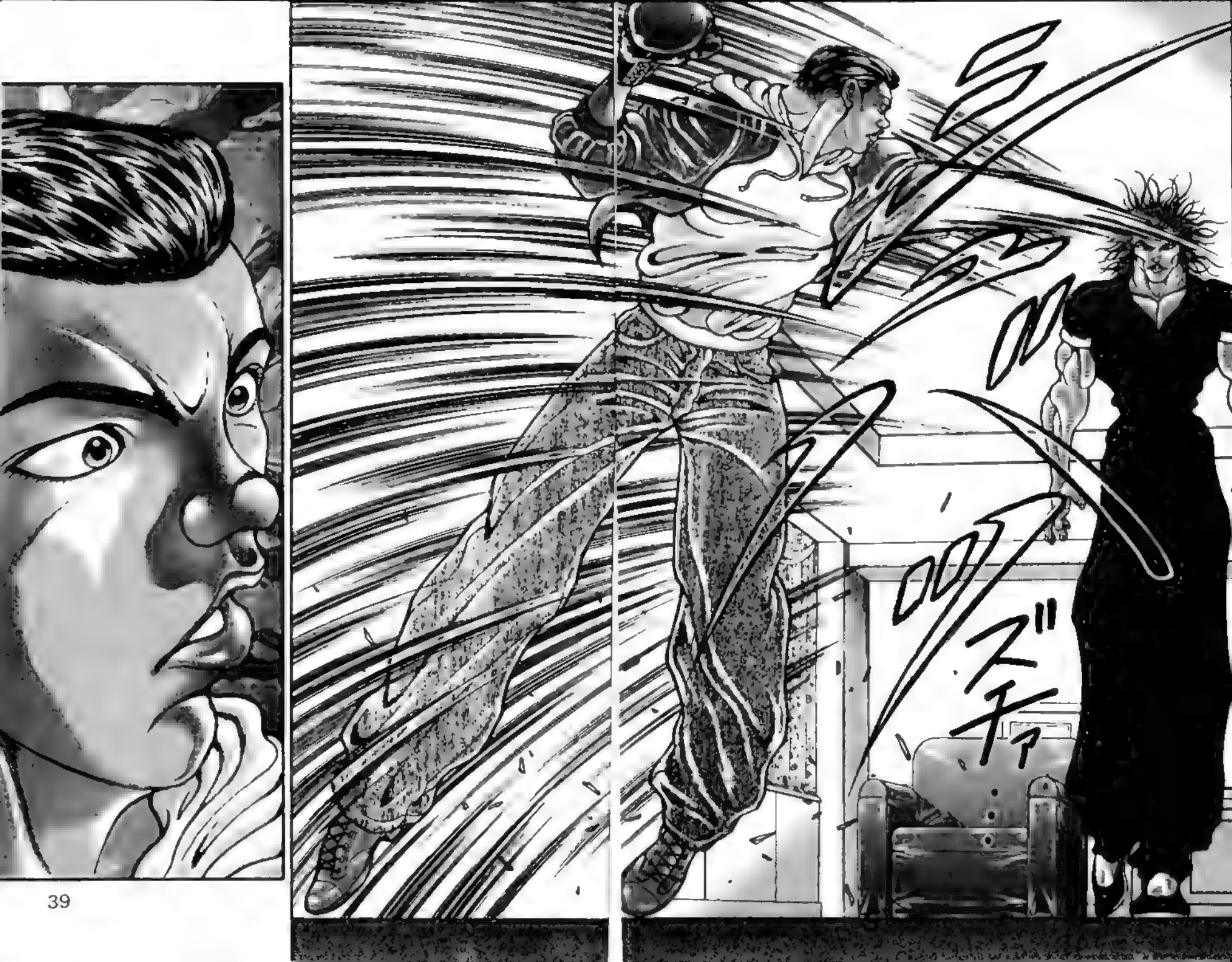
CCOO

.....

BRING XILOU HERE.

XILOU?

THE OLD MASTER?


ズァ

GOOD.
VERY QUICK.

BUT YOU HAVE FLY OR STRAW WEIGHT BOXER'S SPEED. SO, YOU ARE...

YOUR FATHER WAS A HEAVYWEIGHT, BUT HAD LIGHT OR FEATHERWEIGHT BOXER'S SPEED.

QUICKER...

速い

QUICKER THAN YOUR FATHER....

KA-H

HE DUCKED MY JAB...!

THAT WAS CLOSE, BUT...

HE IS FASTER THAN MY JAB!

WHAT A SPEED!

YOU'VE ALSO MASTERED THE SWAY-BACK

YOU FATHER WAS GOOD AT THAT.

WELL...

WHAT TO DO IN "THE STYLE"?

"THE ALI VS. IGARI STYLE"

SINCE 1978, THE STYLE HAS BEEN THE GREATEST WALL TO MANY FIGHTERS.

CHAPTER

第172話

THE DAWN ②

NEW GRAPPLER BAKI

範馬刃牙

BAKI

IN SEARCH OF OUR STRONGEST HERO

BAKI

WE CALL IT "ALI VS. IGARI SITUATION"

SINCE THE SITUATION APPEARED IN 1978.

IT'S AMAZING.

NOW,

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

NO ONE HAS COMPLETELY FIGURED OUT HOW TO DEAL WITH IT.

JUST FOR YOUR INFORMATION,

YOUR FATHER WAS THE FIRST VICTIM TO THIS SITUATION.

AND HE COULDN'T DO ANYTHING, COULDN'T EVEN GET CLOSE TO IGARI.

YOUR FATHER WAS JUST SHOUTING "GET UP ON YOUR FEET!" とは

ANTOINNE IGARI FOUND OUT THIS STYLE AFTER STRUGGLING, 猪狩(いかり)があみ出(だ)した

IT LOOKS EASY TO DEAL WITH...

BUT, IT IS ACTUALLY TOUGH ONE.

SHOW ME YOUR ACCOM-PLISHMENT.

KH, KHT..

STARTING WITH MY FATHER...

WHY EVERYBODY STRUGGLES OR EVEN CARE ABOUT THIS STYLE?
I DON'T GET IT.

IN THAT STYLE, THE STRONG ONE IS ALREADY ON THE FLOOR...

MARTIAL ARTS ORIGINALLY COMES FROM A DEFENSE FOR THE WEAK PREVENTING GETTING DAMAGED BY THE STRONG.

IF YOU ARE AS DANGEROUS AS A HEAVY BAG OF POTATOES?

WHAT ELSE DO THE WEAK NEED TO DO?

OH, WELL, TOO BAD IS OVER, I'M LEAVING...

EH? WHA..?

TAKE CARE YUUJI-CHAN. ♡

I'M GLAD THAT YOU DIDN'T GET HURT.

WHAT DID YOU...!!!

WOOAH
!!

TUNGG!!!

60

A BOMB?

KYAAAH

A
EXPLOSION
JUST
ATTACK!

DID YOU
HEAR THAT?

EH?

HOWEVER, THIS IS THE ONLY WAY.

I KNOW IT MIGHT BE HARSH FOR YOU.

PLEASE HAVE A FIGHT WITH CHO.

HEY, KOZUE.

I'M GLAD...

I SHOULD TAKE THIS OFFER.

PETSU SAN THINKS I CAN FIGHT EVEN IN THIS CONDITION

THANKS, BAKI...

HE EVEN THINKS I'M GOING TO WIN.

かも眼つと……。

WHERE IS ...

THE ONE?

THE FAVORITE CANDIDATE FOR
THE NEXT KAIOU.

HE IS ALREADY AT...

THE FIRST FIGHT STAGE.

I WILL DESTROY HIM..
HE WON'T FIGHT EVER AGAIN...

HERE COMES CHOU YOU..

NEW GRAPPLER BAKI

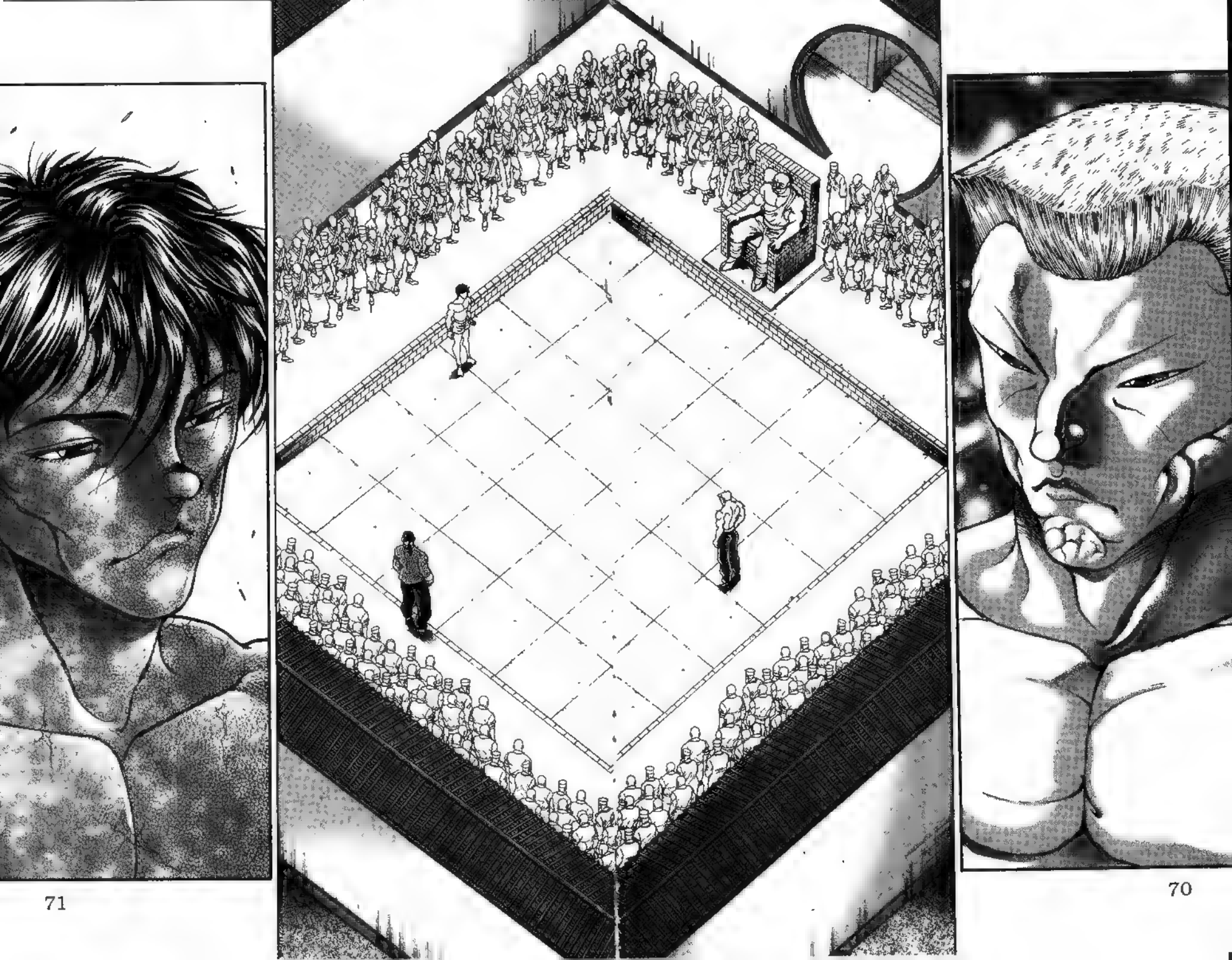
BAKI

IN SEARCH OF OUR STRONGEST HERO

All BAKI wants is to win !!

CHAPTER
第173話

CAN'T HIT HIM!



THIS BOY IS...!!
少年(しょうねん)が

ONE OF THE CANDIDATES FOR THE LEGENDARY RAITAI?
る……

な、なに!!
CAN'T ALLOW SUCH NONSENSE!
なんて

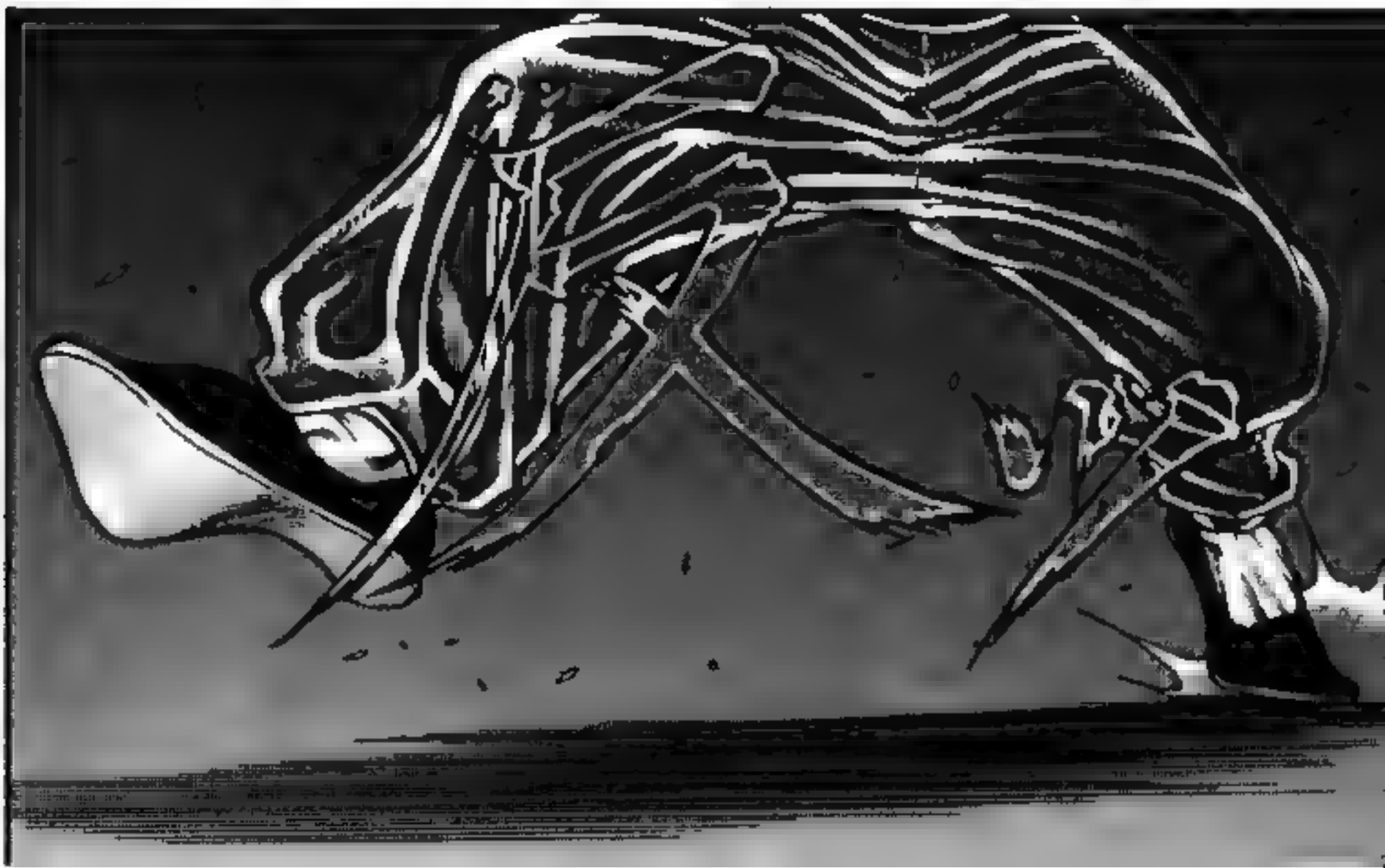
BOTH, GET READY.

HE WON'T EVEN BE AWAKE WHEN THE RAITAI STARTS...

THIS IS THE END OF HIM...

ピキ

FIGHT



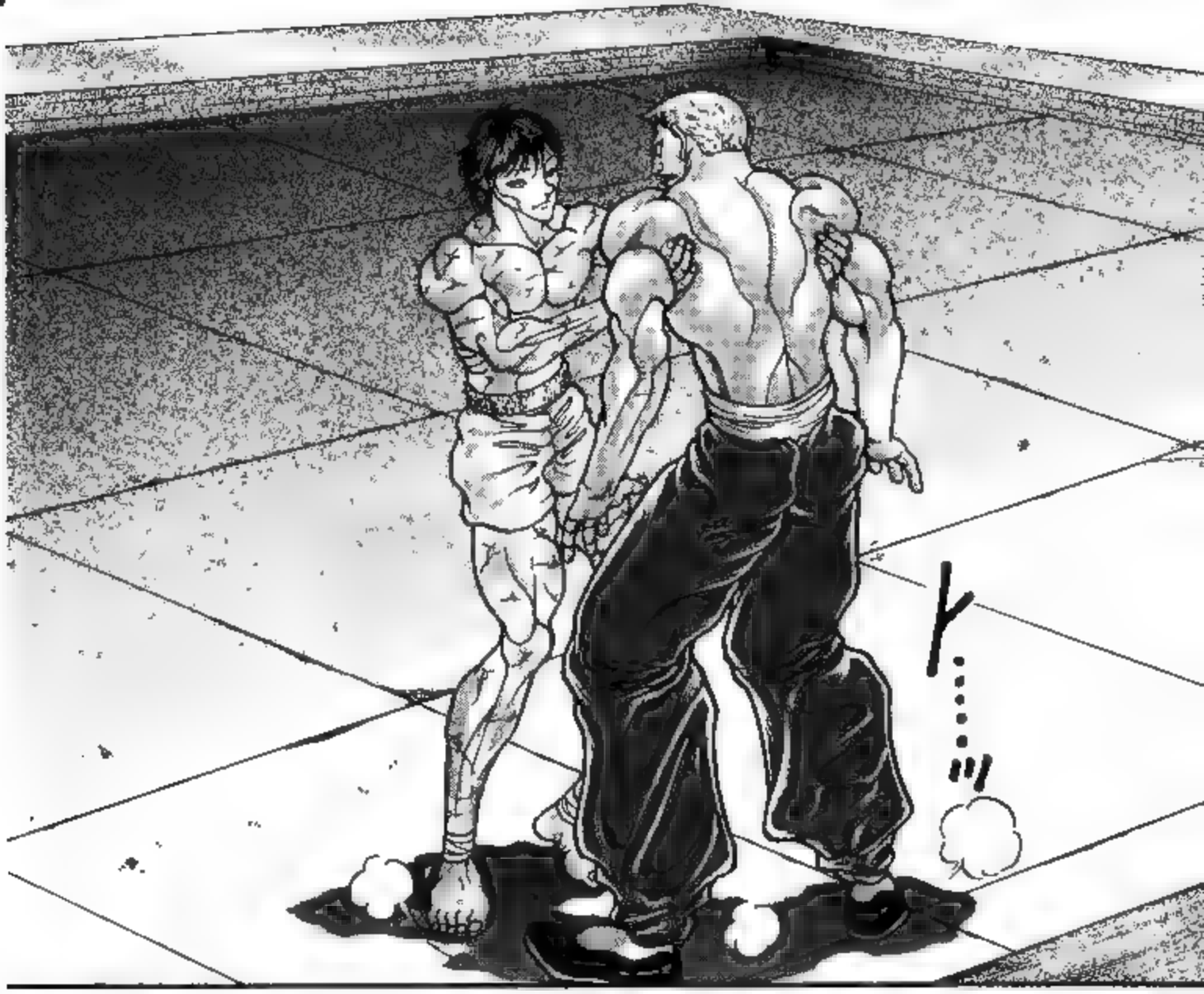
オ…!!
オ…!!

撞

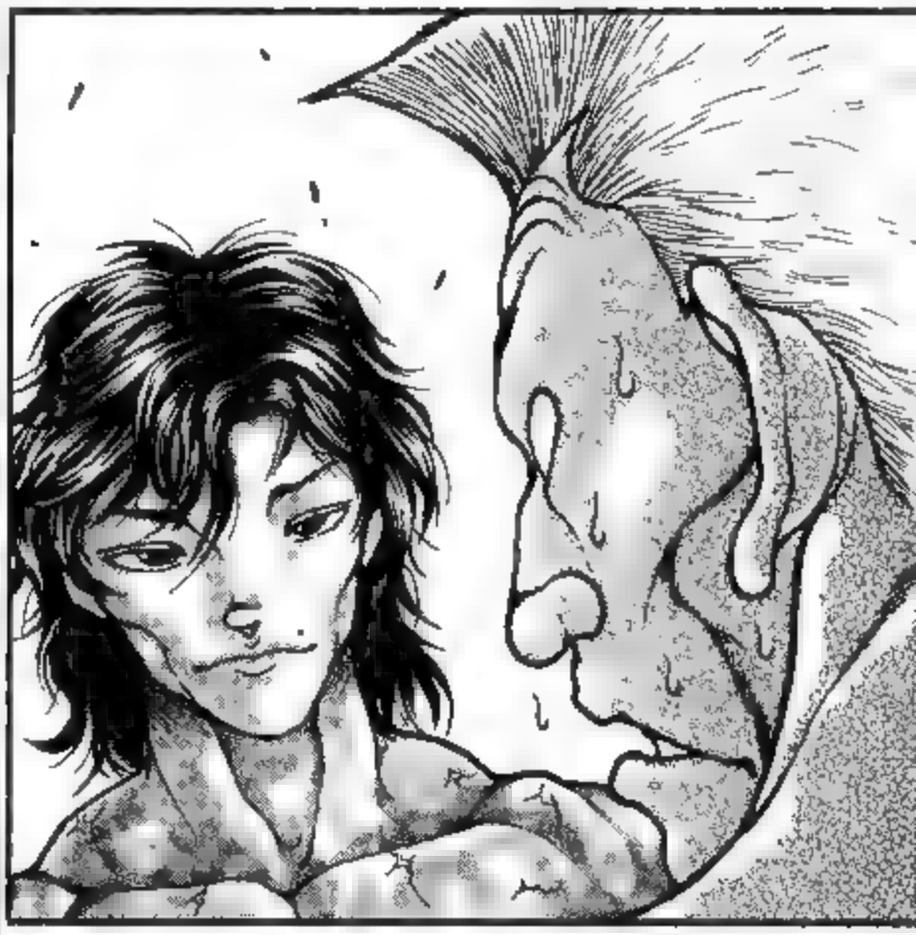
SO EASILY...

CHO'S FISTS DON'T ...

EVEN TOUCH HIM.


ハ……!!

ドン



EH?

CHAPTER

第174話

DAIRANAIKI

THE GREATEST CHINESE CHALLENGE

WHOA?!!

AHEM.. PET...

HMMMPP"

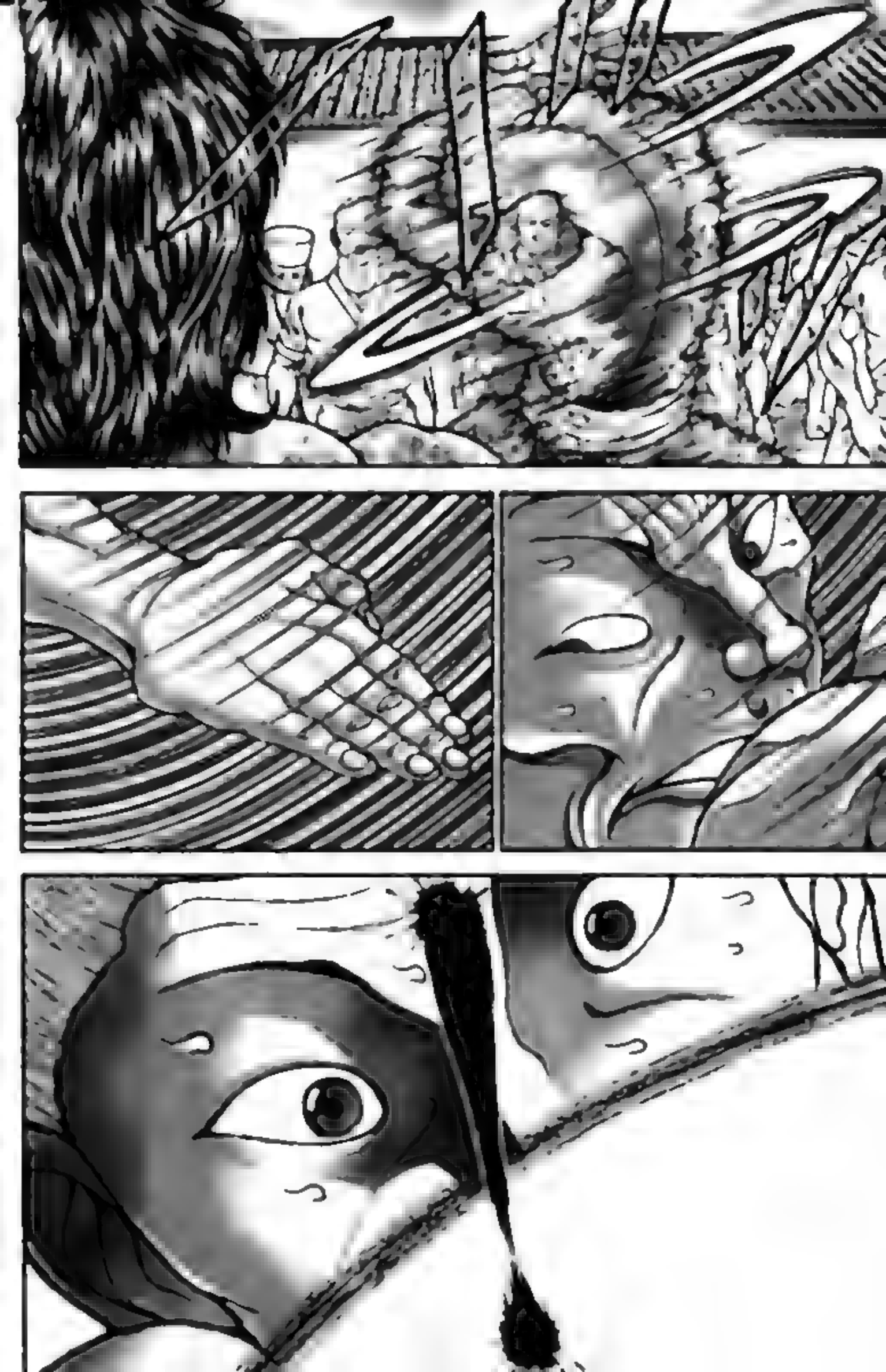
.....

TSK HE, HE AHEM" SORRY...

MASTER

SHOULD WE STOP THEM NOW?

WHAT A SILLY....



EH?

スゥ…

WOAH!

YOUR..
VICTORY...

YOU
WIN...

RA-I-
TA-I?

YES. WE CALL IT THE RAITAI.

"RAITAI" IN CHINESE MEANS SOMETHING LIKE "BRAVE CHALLENGE" OR "TEST FOR THE VALIANTS" IN VERY OLD CHINESE TERMS.

IT'S A MARTIAL ARTS TOURNAMENT HELD IN CHINA AND TAIWAN.

YOU ARE GOING TO BE ON THE STAGE OF THE RAITAI.

SO... BAKI.

HE WILL BE DEAD...

HE NEEDS TO FIGHT TO HEAL HIS POISONED BODY.

HE WILL BE DEAD IF HE STAYS LIKE THIS.

WHY CAN'T HE STAY AT HOME RELAXED AND TAKING MEDICINES?

IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.

BUT CHINA AND CHINESE MARTIAL ARTS HAVE A LONG AND DEEP HISTORY.

I UNDER-STAND HOW YOU FEEL RIGHT NOW.

わたしが言(い)って精神論(せいしんろん)ではない

I'M NOT SAYING HE NEEDS TO FIGHT FOR HIS STRENGHT OR TO SHARPEN HIS SKILLS

ACTUALLY HE NEEDS FIGHTS こAS A(てき) PRACTICAL HEALING..

必要(ひつよう)として療(りょう)なのだ

BIG RAITAI TOURNAMENT IS HELD.

ONCE A HUNDRED YEARS.

WHAT? EVERY HUNDRED YEARS?...

歴史上の事実(れきしじょうのじじつ)だが

IT IS A HISTORICAL FACT THAT PANCREATION WHICH WAS POPULAR AT ANCIENT ROME HAS BEEN ELIMINATED SO LONG.

HOWEVER, WE STILL HAVE IT IN CHINA.

決定(けってい)A REAL KAIOU WILL BE CHOSEN IN RAITAI.

擂台賽(らいたいさい)を

PANCREATION IN CHINA!!?

中国(ちゅうごく)がチオン!?

A REAL KAIOU ...?

AND HE IS RETSU KAIOU.

YES. I AM RYU KAIOU.

THESE KAIOU WILL FIGHT EVERY CENTURY ...

THERE ARE STILL A FEW MORE KAIOU IN CHINA.

FOR THE MOST HISTORICAL AND LEGENDARY TITLE..

この海王達(かいおうたち)が

海皇(かいおう)になるため

"THE ONE REAL KAIOH"

FOR SUCH A HUGE EVENT...

I'M IN THIS BAD CONDITION

YOU WOULD LOVE TO JOIN IN IT.

WELL,

WHY'S THAT?

WOULD I?

JUST GUESS WHO ELSE WILL BE PARTICIPA-TING ON THIS TOURNAMENT ....

US NAVAL AIR FACILITY
ATSUGI, JAPAN
厚木基地

NOO!!
NOO!!

TAKE ME TO HONG KONG...

YES SIR.

CHAPTER

第175話

VICTORY DECLARATION

NOOO!!!
NOOO!!

SO,IT'S TRUE...

HANMA YUUJIRO IS JOINING IN ....

WE WOULD WELCOME HANMA YUUJIRO AS WELL AS THE WORLD STRONGEST KAIOU.

THE RUMORED "WORLD STRONGEST CREATURE" HAS BEEN INVITED HERE TO CHINA.

WOULD YOU TELL ME ABOUT YUUJIRO WHEN YOU SAW HIM IN JAPAN.

FOR OUR CHINESE MARTIAL ARTS HISTORY.

HIS ENTRY WOULD BE AN UNPARA-LLELED EVENT...

IT WILL BE LIKE ...

BUT I CAN GUESS HOW STRONG HE IS BY THAT.

WELL, YOU ARE NOT ANSWERING MY QUESTION ...

AGAINST A MODERN TACTICAL WEAPON OF A GREAT NATION...

かに…と…

WE, CHINESE MARTIAL ARTISTS, FIGHTWITH BARE HANDS..

くる

WELL SAID... LEXIAOU!!

EHWA, HAHAHA ...

THEN, WE KNOW THE RESULT BEFORE FIGHTING

CLEAR VICTORY FOR US,

CHINESE MARTIAL ARTISTS.

YES!

OK. IT'S GETTING LATE NOW.

I'M SORRY TO BOTHER YOU, SIR

WHAT?

MASTER...

TONIGHT IS SUCH A FUN NIGHT!!

BWA HA, HA, HA...

チャ

ガヤ

OUR MASTER WILL BE HERE SOON.
PLEASE WAIT FOR A MOMENT.

SORRY TO BOTHER YOU GUYS AT THIS LATE.

GOOD EVENING.

YOU GUYS ARE VERY POLITE....

EXACTLY THE SAME AS YOUR FATHER, MUHAMMAD ALI.

.....

WOW..HUGE

~~~~~.....

WOW...
~~~~~

I'VE HEARD ANYONE EVEN IF HE'S NOT CHINESE CAN ENTER.

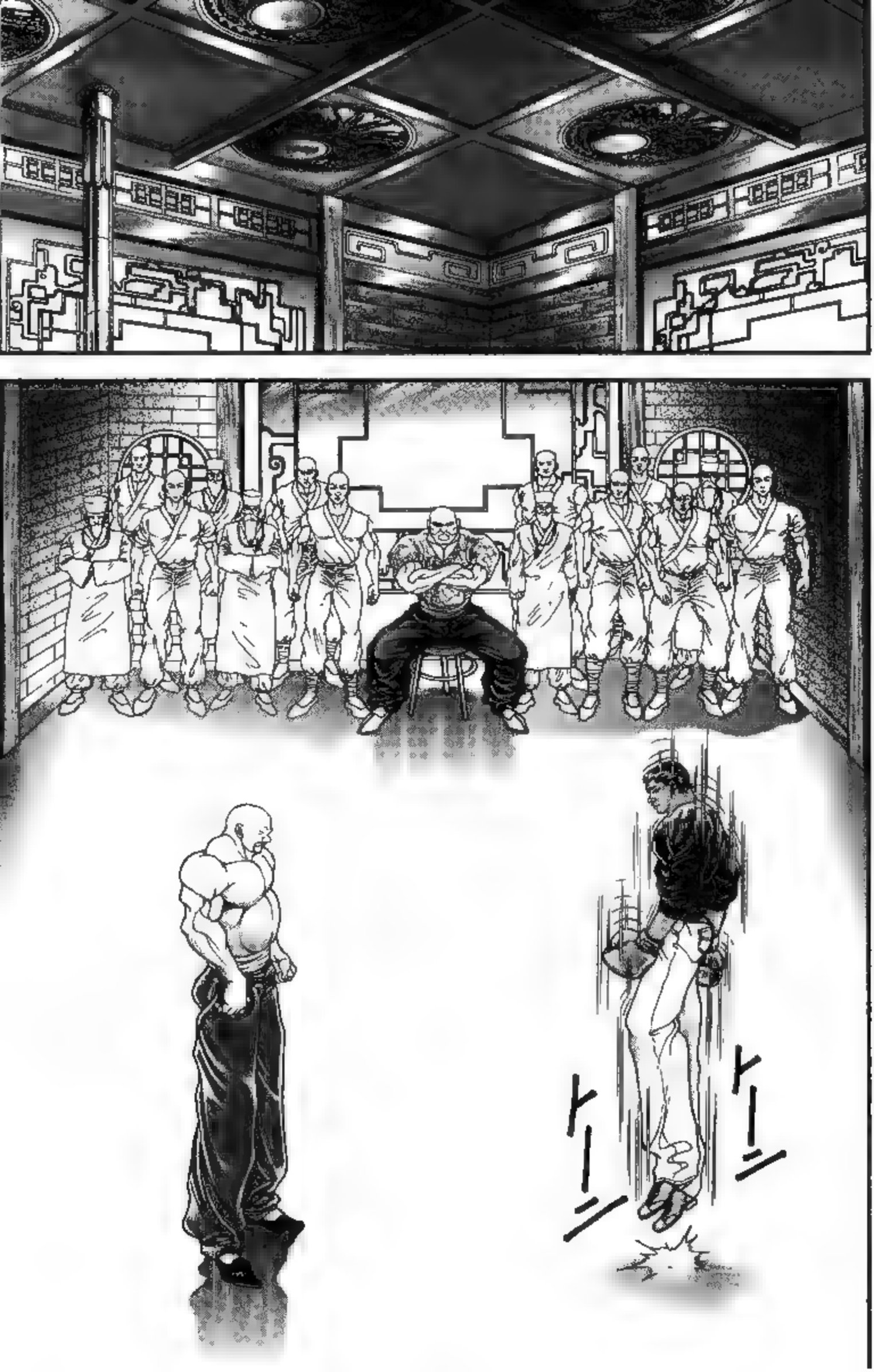
I CAME FOR THE BIG RAITAI PARTY, ONCE IN A HUNDRED YEARS.

BUT...

THAT IS RIGHT.

YES, LIKE YOUR FATHER ONCE DID.

LET ME GUESS... A TEST TO SHOW YOU MY STRENGHT...



WE WOULD' VE WELCOMED YOUR FATHER TO ENTRY…

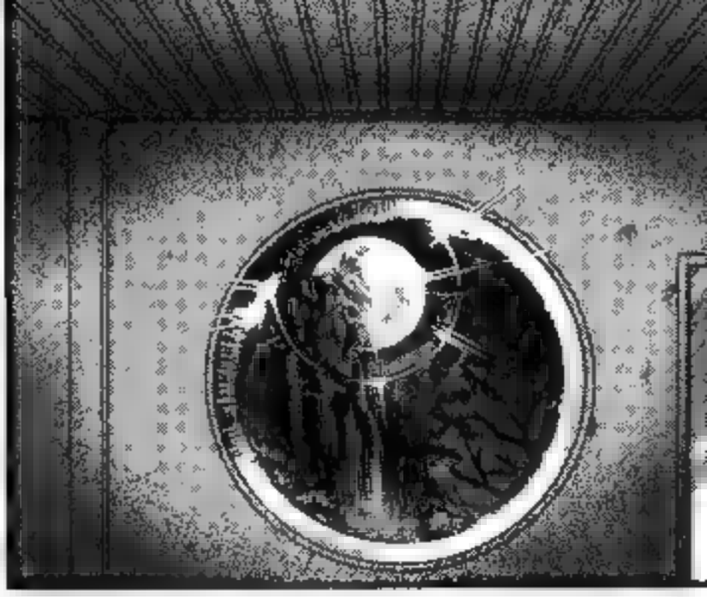
IF WE HAD A BIG RAITAI TOURNAMENT 30 YEARS AGO,

HE CAN HANDLE THAT…

NO PROBLEM KEEPING THESE GLOVES?

BEGIN!!

HM. . HM. .



スン

URRA..

KH..

CHAPTER

第176話

FATALITY

NEW GRAPPLER BAKI

刃牙

BAKI

IN SEARCH OF OUR STRONGEST HERO

BAKI

BAKI

THIS STYLE
YOU KNOW IT
WELL....

君(きみ)もよく知(し)っているこの型(カタチ)……

IN TOKYO IN 1976.

YOUR FATHER SAW THIS STYLE FOR THE FIRST TIME.

オ

HE COULDN'T DO ANYTHING TO IT…

遂に AND NO WINNER OR LOSER.

罵 HE KEPT 立 SHOUTING AT THE OPPONENT FOR OVER 1 HOUR…

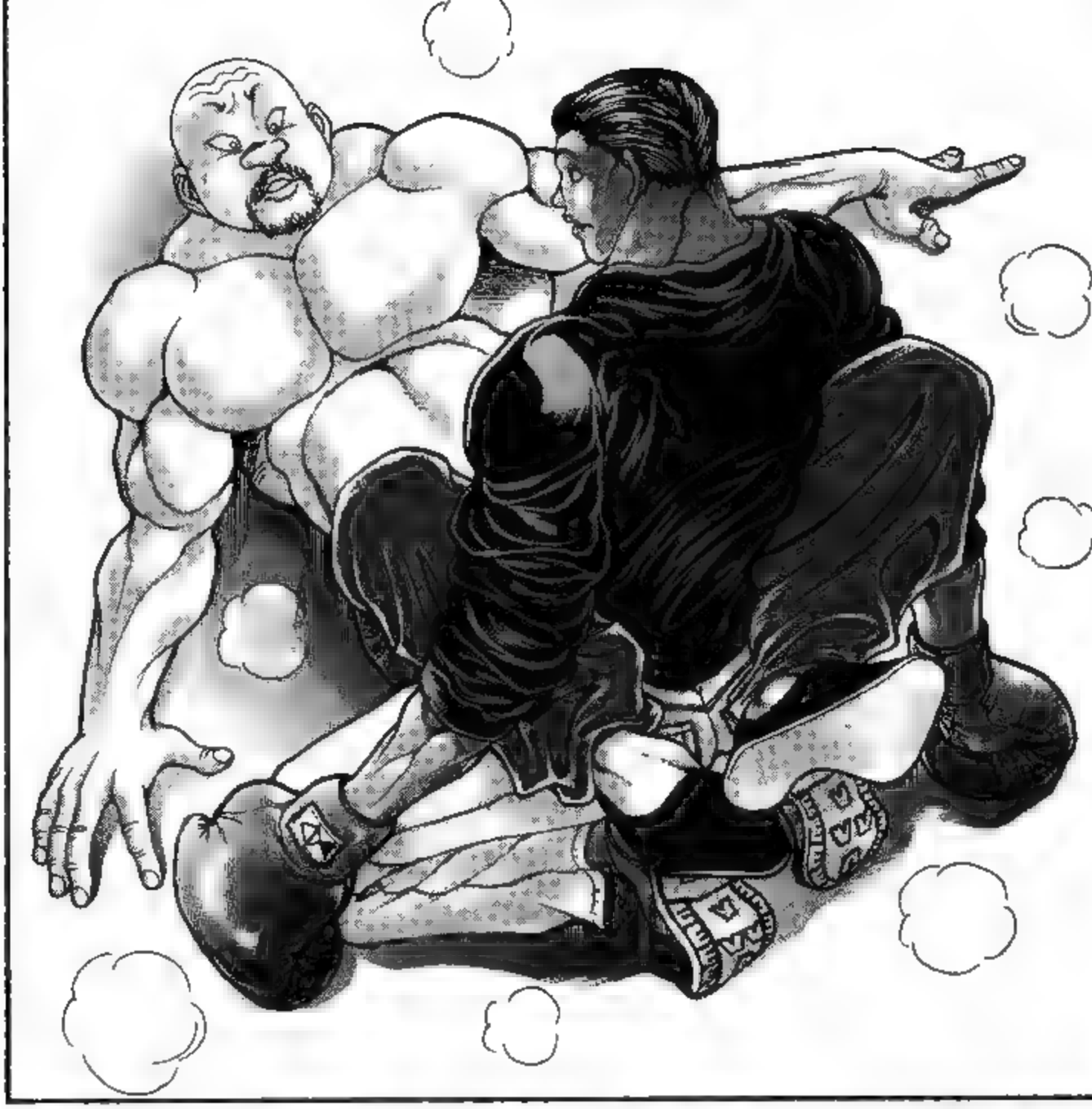
THAT'S WEIRD.

HOW HE.

NOW?

WELL. .

WHOA.



KA-

T!!!

AGHT..

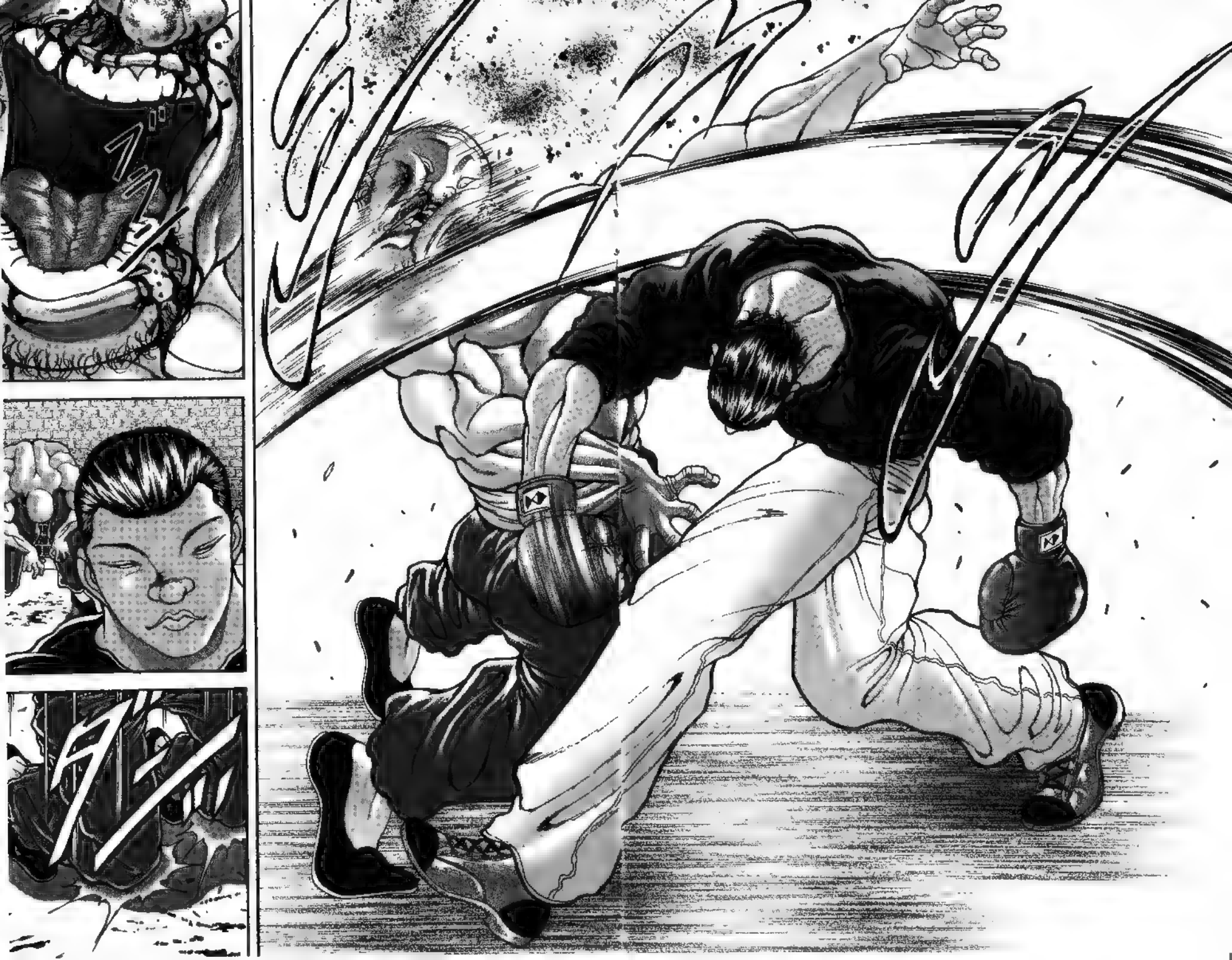
GOOD.

IT'S BETTER TO FIGHT ON YOUR FEET.

WOSH

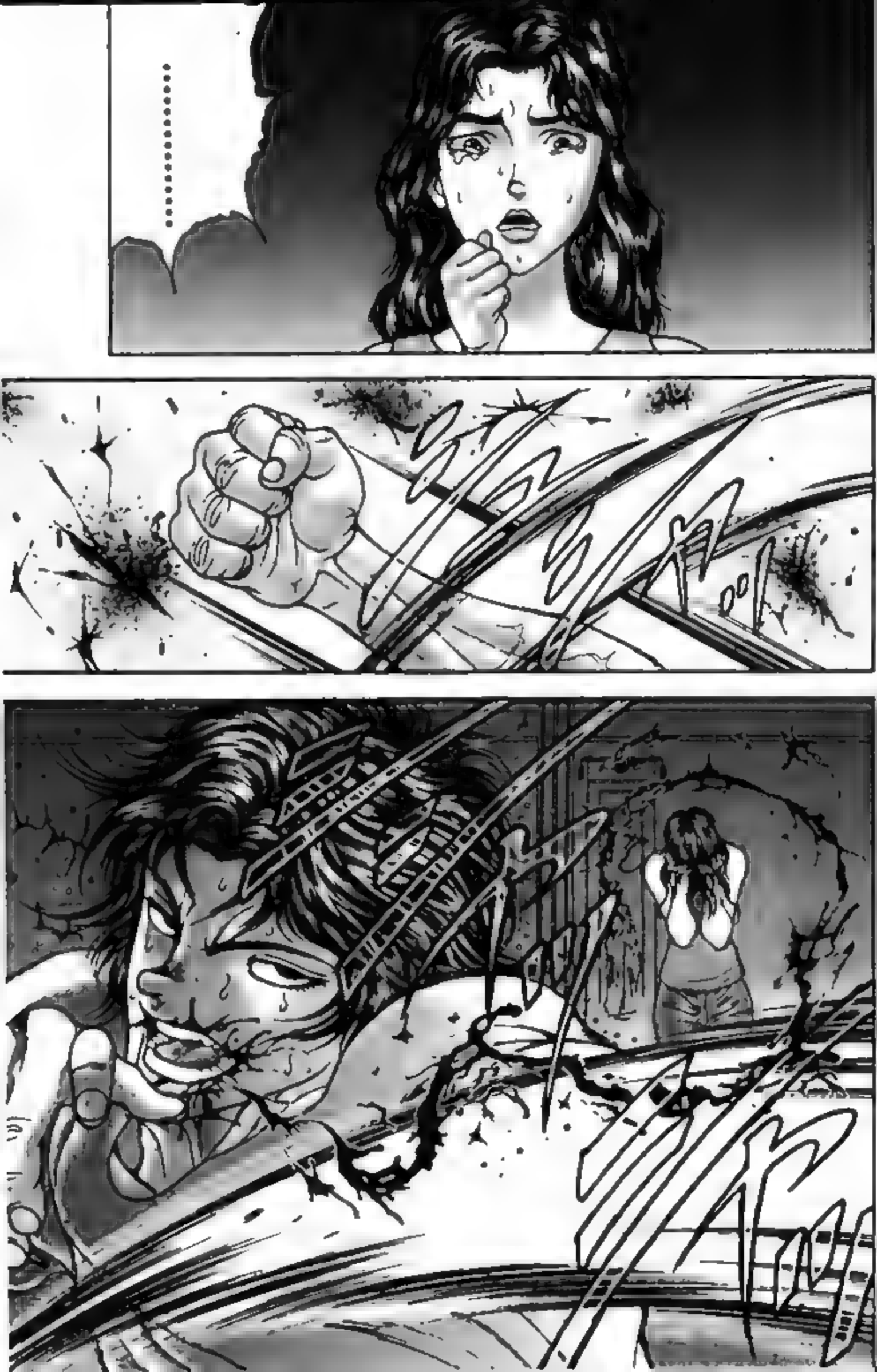
WAY FASTER THAN HIM.
SO FAST!

HISH



WOULD ANYONE CAN ...

TAKE OFF MY GLOVES?



NEW GRAPPLER BAKI

BAKI

IN SEARCH OF OUR STRONGEST HERO

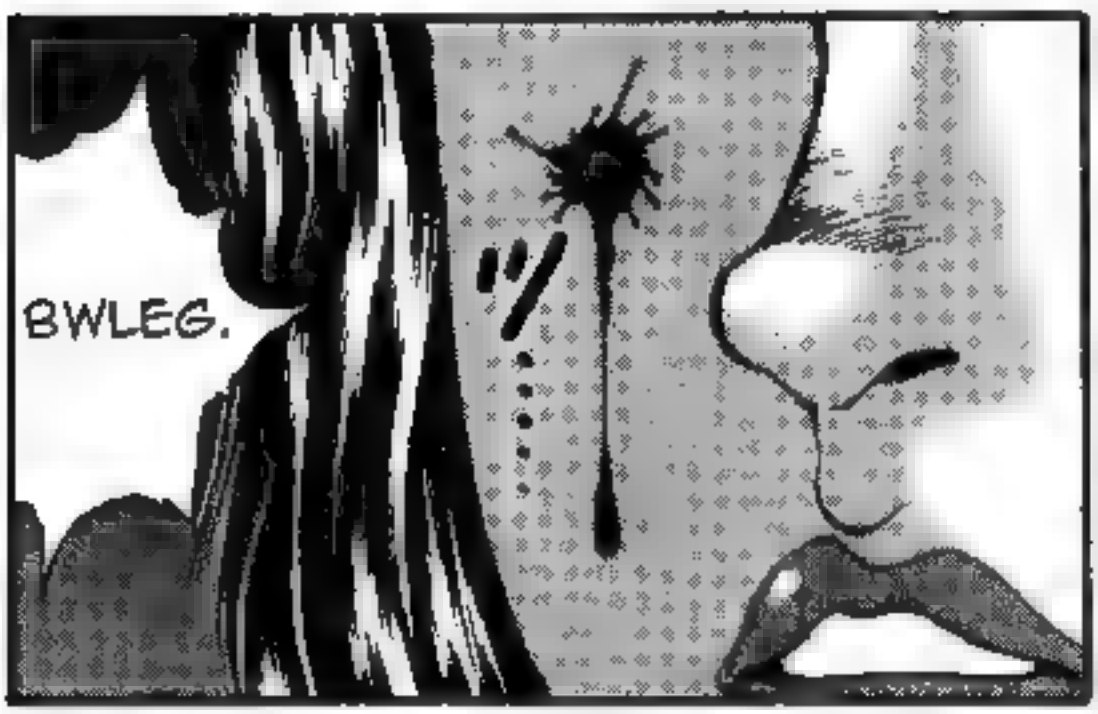
All BAKI wants is to win !!

CHAPTER
第177話
DETERMINATION

BLAGH...

PTU!

BLEWG!


BWLEG.
!!

GAH
PTU..

!
DO YOUR BEST...

DO YOUR BEST ...

WHAT ...

.....

MY LOVE..

GO FOR IT..

I'LL DO MY BEST...

IF YOU DON'T MIND...

I CANNOT STOP YOU...

THAT IS YOUR FATE.

YOU WILL FIGHT EVEN IF YOU GET KILLED.

THIS WAS DECIDED BEFORE YOU WERE BORN...

THIS IS NOT YOUR FAULT...

恋じゃ

JUST...

SOMEDAY...

I'LL GIVE A

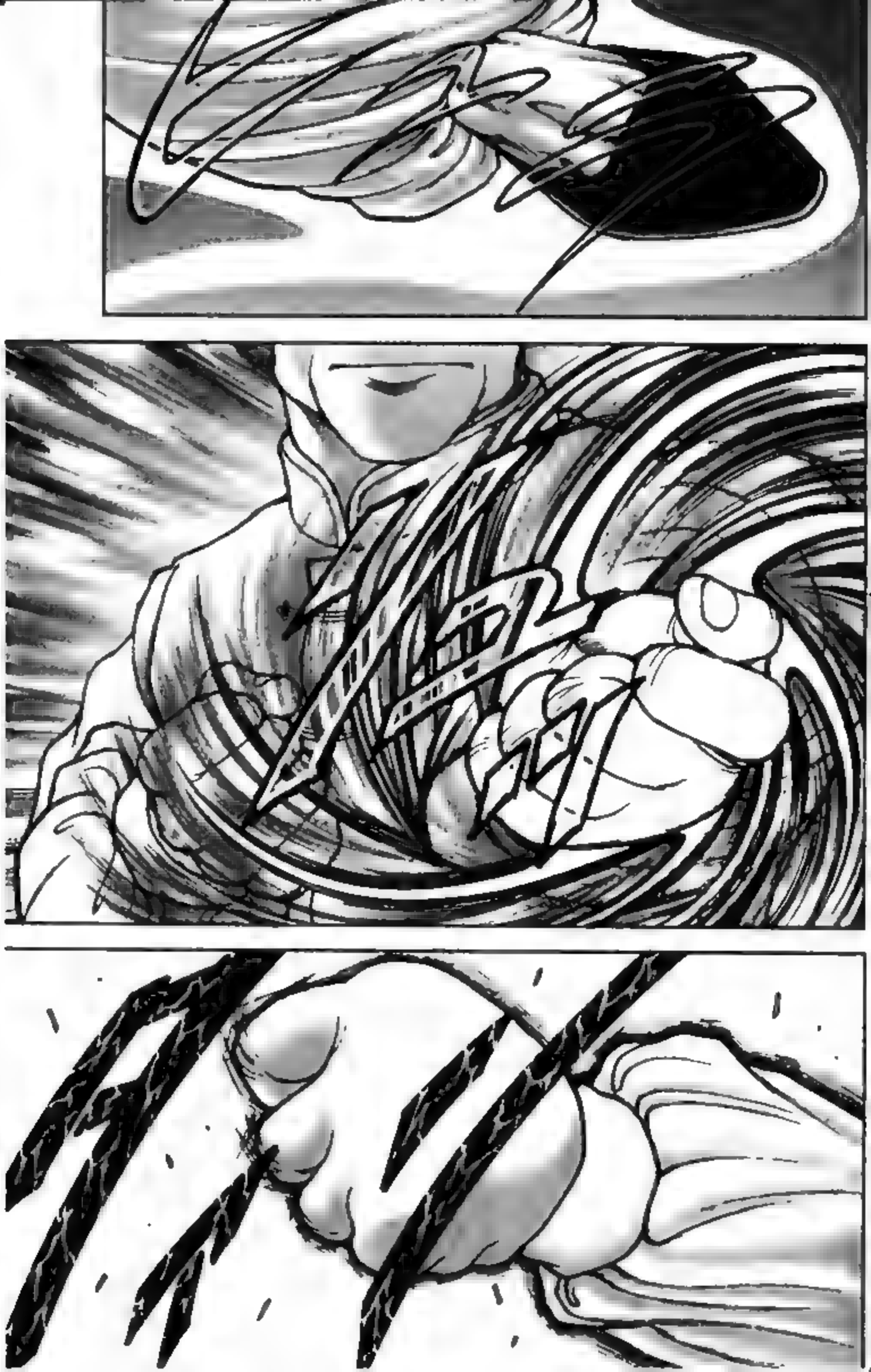
PROPER

ENDING TO

ALL OF THIS...

MARTIAL

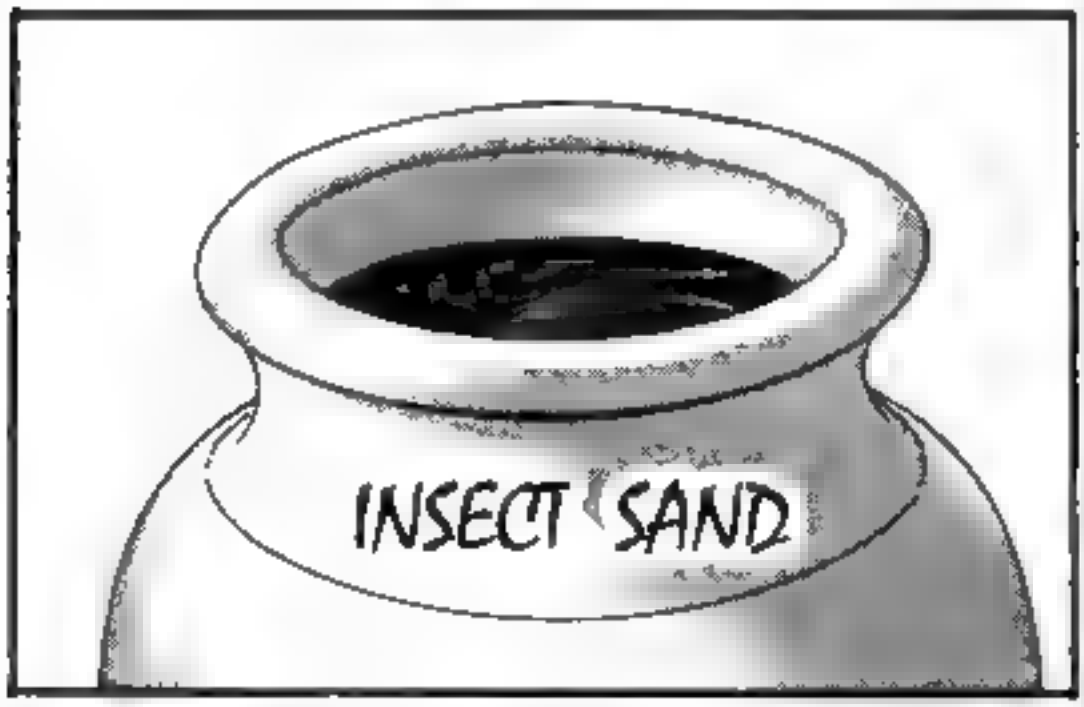
MARTIAL

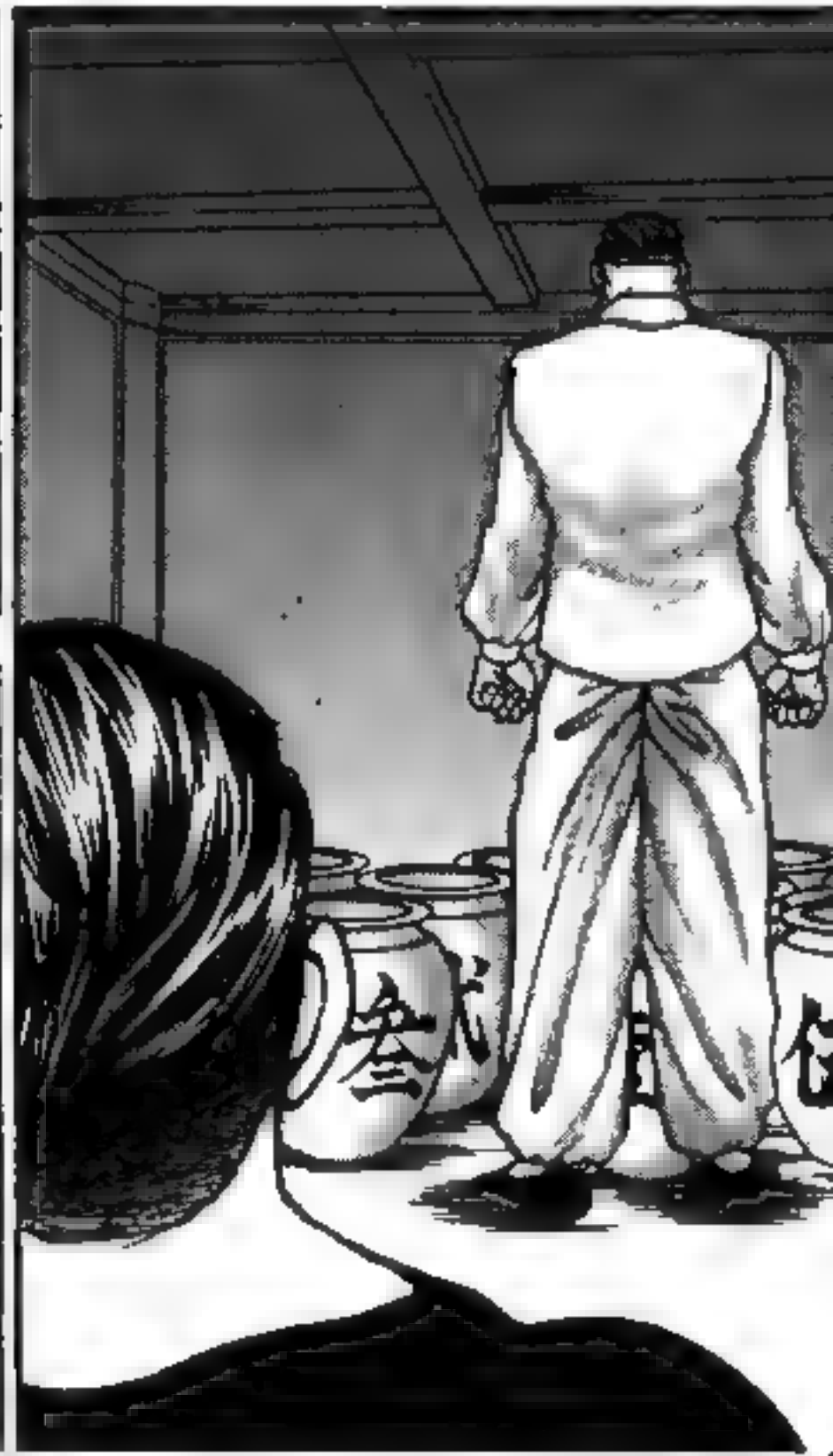


YOU MASTERED THE ART TO PERFECTION...

SKILLS, FORMS, TECHNIQUE..

YOUR FISTS ARE ALMOST COMPLETED TOO.





TOMORROW.

BLOT

ARE YOU REALLY GOING UP TO THE STAGE OF RAITAI?

THIS BIG EVENT ONCE A HUNDRED YEARS

DO YOU UNDERSTAND ..

HOW MUCH IT MEANS TO ME?

I WON'T BE EASY ON YOU.

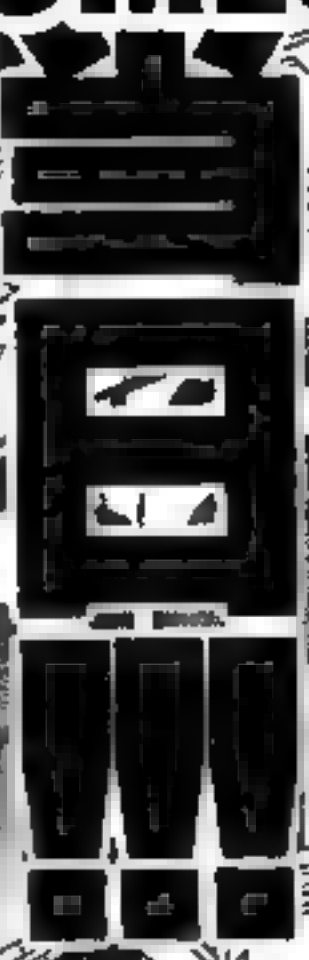
EVEN THOUGH YOU ARE...

あなたが
THE ONLY BROTHER I HAVE...

サラ

そして

AND THE DAY COMES!!!



CHAPTER
第178話
THE GATHERING

A HUNDRED YEARS LATER. WE ARE TOGHETER ONCE AGAIN...

THE POSITION OF THE PLANETS IN THE SOLAR SYSTEM...

IS ALIGNED IN A ROW OF

TWELVE!!

THE NUMBER OF MONTHS OF THE YEAR IS TWELVE.

THE NUMBER OF THE GODS THAT GUARD UNIVERSE IS TWELVE...

THE NUMBER OF THE GUARDIAN ANGELS THAT GUARD SHAKYAMUNI IS TWELVE!

THE NUMBER OF APOSTLES OF JESUS IS TWELVE!

AND NOW,
THE TWELVE
WARRIORS
WHO GUARD OUR
BELOVED CHINA
ARE RIGHT
HERE!!!

ALL THE KAIJU HAVE GATHERED!

RYU KAIOU.

BYAKU-RINJI, FROM HEILONG JIANG.

LEXIAOU (RETSU) KAIOU.

BYAKU-RINJI, FROM HEILONG JIANG, AS WELL.

KETSUKEN-DO, FROM JINGLING.

SOUN KAIOU.

KOGO-KEN, FROM SHANDONG.

YOH KAIOU.

SANGO-
KEN,
FROM
FUJIAN.

CHIN
KAIOU

JIOU
KAIOU.

WO AI
NI!!

RYUO-KEN,
FROM
JIANGSU.

JUUJU-
KEN,
HEBEI.

MAO
KAIOU.

MUAY
THAI,
FROM
THAILAND.

SAMWON
KAIOU.

YAKKOU-
KEN, FROM
CANTON

LEE
KAIOU.

KENO-
DO,
FROM
CANTON
AS WELL.

HAN
KAIOU.

DORIAN KAIOU.

BYAKU-RINJI, FROM USA.

JYAKU KAIOU.

KUKEN-DO, FROM JAPAN.

ALL THE TWELVE WARRIORS ARE HERE,' NOW!!!

HERE COMES...

THAT SHINES IN TOP OF ALL OF THEM.

AND THE TRUE STAR...

THE SUPREME MASTER...

BEING ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY SIX YEARS OLD....

THE CHAMPION OF THE PREVIOUS GREATEST RAITAI TOURNAMENT.

PLEASE EVERYONE RISE...

HE IS THE KAIOH OF KAIOUS!

KAKU KAIOH!!!

146 YEARS OLD, BUT STILL FIGHTING LIKE IS 1907..

MUHAMMAD ALI JR. FROM USA!

ALSO WE HAVE THREE SPECIAL GUESTS IN THIS CENTURY'S CHALLENGE.

HANMA BAKI!!

FREESTYLE MARTIAL ARTS, FROM JAPAN...

HANMA YUUJIRO.

HE FIGHTS "EVERY MARTIAL ART YOU DAMN PLEASE" IN HIS OWN WORDS

NO RULES,
NO WEAPONS,
IF YOU FIND BUDDHA
DEFEAT BUDDHA...
IF YOU FIND YOUR
FRIEND, DEFEAT YOUR
FRIEND....
FIGHT FOR YOUR LIFE
WARRIORS!!

THE CHANCE OF A LIFETIME!
IN ONE EVENT...
THE PRIZE OF ONE
HUNDRED
YEARS OF GLORY TO
INSPIRE GENERATIONS IS
FINALLY AT HAND...

THE WORLD
WARRIORS HAVE
RISE TO THE
CHALLENGE, THE
BRAVE MEN WHO
WILL WRITE
HISTORY WITH
THEIR OWN BLOOD.

AND NOW...
IT'S TIME...

THE OFFICIAL MATCHMAKING AND BOUT ORDER!!

!

!

!

『バキ』第⑳巻／完

SPECIAL THANKS

NEODRAGZERO

FOR SPONSORING ONE OF THE BEST VOLUMES OF BAKI EVER!! THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!

The Strong is the Beautiful !!

THE WILD FANG PROJECT

PROJECT LEADER
ICHIDO REICHAN

COMPLETE EDITION
ICHIDO REICHAN

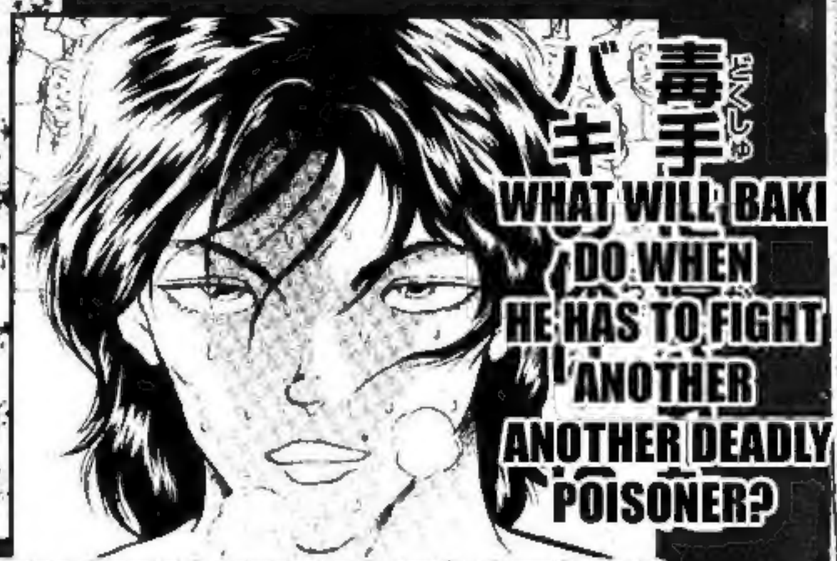
TRANSLATED BY
YUUJI (JAPAN)

TEXT REVISION BY
MULTI

FINISHED IN A MARATHON OF 16 HOURS ON THE WEEKEND OF 8/18-19/2007
IS SAD THAT I STARTED AND I JUST COULDNT STOP.

NOW THAT THE BEST WARRIOS IN THE WORLD HAVE GATHERED...
LET'S THE DEADLY GAMES BEGIN!!

THE ONLY FIGHTER THAT MADE BAKI BATHE IN HIS OWN BLOOD... IS THIS THE END OF OUR STRONGEST HERO? WILL HE EVEN COME OUT ALIVE OF ALL OF THIS MADNESS?



WHAT WILL BAKI DO WHEN HE HAS TO FIGHT ANOTHER ANOTHER DEADLY POISONER?

THE FIRST DAY OF RAITAI GET AS WILD AS IT'S GETS AND THE FIGHTERS HAVE TORESORT TO HIS BEST SKILLS TO SURVIVE AND ADVANCE TO THE PROMISED GLORY. A BOOK FULL OF SURPRISES AND ACTION AWAITS YOU BAKI 21 VERY SOON FOR YOU...ONLY FROM WILD FANG...

YUUJIRO GETS FIRST BLOOD WITHOUT ANY LIMITATIONS!!

「刃牙」 THE BAKI JOURNAL

By Ichido Reichan

GUYS, I TOTALLY DISCOVER A COOL PROGRAM TO USE YOUR HACKED PSP TO READ THE WILD FANG RELEASES, IS A NEW PROGRAM CALLED MANGA2PSP AND IS VERY CONFORTABLE IF SOME OF YOU HATE TO READ MANGA ON THE PC, YOU HAVE TO TRANSFORM THE FILES TO BE COMPATIBLE TO THE PROGRAM BUT FOR THE ONES THAT HAS A HACKED PSP, I WAS THINKING I WILL RELEASE 21-22 ON BOTH NORMAL AND PSP FORMAT ALONG WITH THE PROGRAM AND THE TUTORIAL, SO LET ME KNOW IF ITS A GOOD IDEA TO MAKE "THE WILD FANG PORTABLE".

THE ORIGINS OF CHINESE MARTIAL ARTS ARE TRACED TO SELF-DEFENSE NEEDS, HUNTING ACTIVITIES AND MILITARY TRAINING IN ANCIENT CHINA. HAND TO HAND COMBAT AND WEAPONS PRACTICE WERE IMPORTANT COMPONENTS IN THE TRAINING OF CHINESE SOLDIERS.[1][2][3] EVENTUALLY, CHINESE MARTIAL ARTS BECAME AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF CHINESE CULTURE.

ACCORDING TO LEGEND, THE REIGN OF THE YELLOW EMPEROR (HUANGDI, TRADITIONAL DATE OF ASCENSION TO THE THRONE, 2698 B.C.) INTRODUCED THE EARLIEST FORMS OF MARTIAL ARTS TO CHINA.[4] THE YELLOW EMPEROR IS DESCRIBED AS A FAMOUS GENERAL WHO, BEFORE BECOMING CHINA'S LEADER, WROTE LENGTHY TREATISES ON MEDICINE, ASTROLOGY AND THE MARTIAL ARTS. HE ALLEGEDLY DEVELOPED THE PRACTICE OF JIAO DI OR HORN-BUTTING AND UTILIZED IT IN WAR.[5] REGARDLESS OF THESE LEGENDS, JIAO DI EVOLVED DURING THE ZHOU DYNASTY (2ND MILLENNIUM B.C.) INTO A COMBAT WRESTLING SYSTEM CALLED JIAO LI, THE PRACTICE OF WHICH IN THE ZHOU DYNASTY WAS RECORDED IN THE CLASSIC OF RITES.[6] THIS COMBAT SYSTEM INCLUDED TECHNIQUES SUCH AS STRIKES, THROWS, JOINT MANIPULATION, AND PRESSURE POINT ATTACKS.[5] JIAO LI BECAME A SPORT DURING THE QIN DYNASTY (221 - 207 B.C.). JIAO LI EVENTUALLY BECAME KNOWN AS SHUAI JIAO, ITS MODERN FORM.

SOPHISTICATED THEORIES OF MARTIAL ARTS BASED ON THE OPPOSING IDEAS OF YIN AND YANG, AND THE INTEGRATION OF "HARD" AND "SOFT" TECHNIQUES ARE RECORDED IN THE ANNALS OF THE SPRING AND AUTUMN PERIOD (722 BCE–481 BCE).[7]

THE HAN HISTORY BIBLIOGRAPHIES RECORD THAT, BY THE FORMER HAN (206 BCE–8 CE), THERE WAS A DISTINCTION BETWEEN NO-HOLDS-BARRED WEAPONLESS FIGHTING, WHICH IT CALLS SH UB& ( ), FOR WHICH "HOW-TO" MANUALS HAD ALREADY BEEN WRITTEN, AND SPORTIVE WRESTLING, THEN KNOWN AS JUàLI OR JI OLI ( ).[7] WRESTLING IS ALSO DOCUMENTED IN THE SH JI, THE RECORDS OF THE GRAND HISTORIAN, WRITTEN BY SIMA QIAN DATING FROM 109 BC TO 91 BC.

IN THE TANG DYNASTY, DESCRIPTIONS OF SWORD DANCES WERE IMMORTALIZED IN POEMS BY LI BAI. IN THE SONG AND YUAN DYNASTIES, XIANGPU (THE EARLIEST FORM OF SUMO) CONTESTS WERE SPONSORED BY THE IMPERIAL COURTS. THE MODERN CONCEPTS OF WUSHU WERE FULLY DEVELOPED BY THE MING AND QING DYNASTIES.[8]

MARTIAL ARTS ARE ALSO MENTIONED IN CHINESE PHILOSOPHY. PASSAGES IN THE ZHUANGZI ( ), A DAOIST TEXT, PERTAIN TO THE PSYCHOLOGY AND PRACTICE OF MARTIAL ARTS. ZHUANGZI, ITS EPONYMOUS AUTHOR, IS BELIEVED TO HAVE LIVED IN THE 4TH CENTURY BC. THE TAO TE CHING, OFTEN CREDITED TO LAO ZI, IS ANOTHER DAOIST TEXT THAT CONTAINS PRINCIPLES APPLICABLE TO MARTIAL ARTS. ACCORDING TO ONE OF THE CLASSIC TEXTS OF CONFUCIANISM, ZHOU LI (/), ARCHERY AND CHARIOTEERING WERE PART OF THE "SIX ARTS" (TRADITIONAL CHINESE: ; SIMPLIFIED CHINESE: ; PINYIN: LIU YI, INCLUDING RITES, MUSIC, CALLIGRAPHY AND MATHEMATICS) OF THE ZHOU DYNASTY (1122 - 256 B.C.E.). THE ART OF WAR ( ), WRITTEN DURING THE 6TH CENTURY B.C. BY SUN TZU ( ), DEALS DIRECTLY WITH MILITARY WARFARE BUT CONTAINS IDEAS THAT ARE USED IN THE CHINESE MARTIAL ARTS. THOSE EXAMPLES SHOWS THAT OVER TIME, THE IDEAS ASSOCIATED WITH CHINESE MARTIAL ARTS CHANGED WITH THE EVOLVING CHINESE SOCIETY AND OVER TIME ACQUIRED PHILOSOPHICAL BASIS.

THE PRESENT VIEW OF CHINESE MARTIAL ARTS ARE STRONGLY INFLUENCED BY THE EVENTS OF THE REPUBLICAN PERIOD (1912-1949). IN THE TRANSITION PERIOD BETWEEN THE FALL OF THE QING DYNASTY AS WELL AS THE TURMOILS OF THE JAPANESE INVASION AND THE CHINESE CIVIL WAR, CHINESE MARTIAL ARTS BECAME MORE ACCESSIBLE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC AS MANY MARTIAL ARTISTS WERE ENCOURAGED TO OPENLY TEACH THEIR ART. AT THAT TIME, SOME CONSIDERED MARTIAL ARTS AS A MEANS TO PROMOTE NATIONAL PRIDE AND IMPROVE THE HEALTH OF THE NATION. AS A RESULT, MANY MARTIAL ARTS TRAINING MANUALS ( ) WERE PUBLISHED.[13] AND NUMEROUS MARTIAL ARTS ASSOCIATIONS WERE FORMED THROUGHOUT CHINA AND IN VARIOUS OVERSEA CHINESE COMMUNITIES. THE CENTRAL GUOSHU ACADEMY (ZHONGYANG GUOSHUGUAN, /) ESTABLISHED BY THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT IN 1928[14] AND THE JING WU ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (/) FOUNDED BY HUO YUANJIA IN 1910 ARE EXAMPLES OF ORGANIZATIONS THAT PROMOTED A SYSTEMATIC APPROACH FOR TRAINING IN CHINESE MARTIAL ARTS.[15][16][17] A SERIES OF PROVINCIAL AND NATIONAL COMPETITIONS WERE ORGANIZED BY THE REPUBLICAN GOVERNMENT STARTING IN 1932 TO PROMOTE CHINESE MARTIAL ARTS. IN 1936, AT THE 11TH OLYMPIC GAMES IN BERLIN, A GROUP OF CHINESE MARTIAL ARTISTS DEMONSTRATED THEIR ART TO AN INTERNATIONAL AUDIENCE FOR THE FIRST TIME. EVENTUALLY, THOSE EVENTS LEAD TO THE POPULAR VIEW OF MARTIAL ARTS AS A SPORT.

CHINESE MARTIAL ARTS STARTED TO SPREAD INTERNATIONALLY WITH THE END OF THE CHINESE CIVIL WAR AND THE FOUNDING OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA ON OCTOBER 1, 1949. MANY WELL KNOWN MARTIAL ART PRACTITIONERS CHOSE TO ESCAPE FROM THE PRC'S RULE AND MIGRATE TO TAIWAN, HONG KONG,[18] AND OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD. THOSE MASTERS STARTED TO TEACH WITHIN THE OVERSEAS CHINESE COMMUNITIES BUT EVENTUALLY THEY EXPANDED THEIR TEACHINGS TO INCLUDE PEOPLE FROM OTHER CULTURES.

WITHIN CHINA, THE PRACTICE OF TRADITIONAL MARTIAL ARTS WAS DISCOURAGED DURING THE TURBULENT YEARS OF THE CHINESE CULTURAL REVOLUTION (1966-1976).[19] LIKE MANY OTHER ASPECTS OF TRADITIONAL CHINESE LIFE, MARTIAL ARTS WAS SUBJECTED TO A RADICAL TRANSFORMATION BY THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA IN ORDER TO ALIGN IT WITH MAOIST REVOLUTIONARY DOCTRINE.[19] THE PRC PROMOTED THE COMMITTEE-REGULATED SPORT OF WUSHU AS A REPLACEMENT TO INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS OF MARTIAL ARTS. THIS NEW COMPETITION SPORT WAS DISASSOCIATED FROM WHAT WAS SEEN AS THE POTENTIALLY SUBVERSIVE SELF-DEFENSE ASPECTS AND FAMILY LINEAGES OF CHINESE MARTIAL ARTS PREVIOUSLY EXHIBITED BY THE BOXER REBELLION.[19] RHETORICALLY, THEY ALSO ENCOURAGED THE USE OF THE TERM "KUOSHU" (OR GUOSHU MEANING "THE ARTS OF THE NATION"), RATHER THAN THE COLLOQUIAL TERM GONGFU. IN AN EFFORT TO MORE CLOSELY ASSOCIATE CHINESE MARTIAL ARTS WITH NATIONAL PRIDE RATHER THAN INDIVIDUAL ACCOMPLISHMENT.[19] IN 1958, THE GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHED THE ALL-CHINA WUSHU ASSOCIATION AS AN UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION TO REGULATE MARTIAL ARTS TRAINING. THE CHINESE STATE COMMISSION FOR PHYSICAL CULTURE AND SPORTS TOOK THE LEAD IN CREATING STANDARDIZED FORMS FOR MOST OF THE MAJOR ARTS. DURING THIS PERIOD, A NATIONAL WUSHU SYSTEM THAT INCLUDED STANDARD FORMS, TEACHING CURRICULUM, AND INSTRUCTOR GRADING WAS ESTABLISHED. WUSHU WAS INTRODUCED AT BOTH THE HIGH SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY LEVEL. THE SUPPRESSION OF TRADITIONAL TEACHING WAS RELAXED DURING THE ERA OF RECONSTRUCTION (1976-1989). AS COMMUNIST IDEOLOGY BECAME MORE ACCOMMODATING TO ALTERNATIVE VIEWPOINTS.[20] IN 1979, THE STATE COMMISSION FOR PHYSICAL CULTURE AND SPORTS CREATED A SPECIAL TASK FORCE TO REEVALUATE THE TEACHING AND PRACTICE OF WUSHU. IN 1986, THE CHINESE NATIONAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF WUSHU WAS ESTABLISHED AS THE CENTRAL AUTHORITY FOR THE RESEARCH AND ADMINISTRATION OF WUSHU ACTIVITIES IN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. [21] CHANGING GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND ATTITUDES TOWARDS SPORTS IN GENERAL LEAD TO THE CLOSING OF THE STATE SPORTS COMMISSION (THE CENTRAL SPORTS AUTHORITY) IN 1998. THIS CLOSURE IS VIEWED AS AN ATTEMPT TO PARTIALLY DE-POLITICIZE ORGANIZED SPORTS AND MOVE CHINESE SPORT POLICIES TOWARDS A MORE MARKET-DRIVEN APPROACH.[22] AS A RESULT OF THESE CHANGING SOCIOLOGICAL FACTORS WITHIN CHINA, BOTH TRADITIONAL STYLES AND MODERN WUSHU APPROACHES ARE BEING PROMOTED BY THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT.[23]

BAKI 21 IS COMING OUT TOMORROW A LITTLE EARLIER THAN TODAY :)